

Octopus Ink

Memoir, Story, or Character Development #Prompts ~ #amwriting

SEPTEMBER 28, 2015MARCH 12, 2015 ~ CATE RUSSELL-COLE ~

Get to know yourself, or your characters, much better. In fact, it could be that the more you understand about yourself, the better, richer and deeper characters you can build. Many novelists have been memoirists and vice versa. There are benefits in dabbling in both genres which are worth considering.

Regardless of what you're writing, some of these prompts are simply fun to play with. They may also generate story ideas.

Enjoy:

- Define "spiritual experience"
- How do you measure time? Is there too much or too little? When has it been the greatest problem and why?
- What are you still learning? What is it that is propelling you in that direction?
- If you liken your life to a yoyo, what do you do when you get knots in the string?
- What do you still want to achieve in life?
- Did you fulfil the promise of the talents you were told you were born with? Did your actual talents turn out to be different? What new ones did you discover along the way?
- Write about one incident, or accident, (self or other-person imposed), that changed you forever. Were the long-term effects good, bad or both?
- What are the biggest lessons you have learned? What have the events that you have been through, taught you?
- List your top ten ways to make yourself feel good, confident or at peace.
- Recall a time when you felt powerless. Looking back, were you? Do you need to do some work on yourself now, to deal with guilt, hurt or anger from that situation?
- Describe your favourite hobbies throughout the different ages in your life. (You may want to do this by decade.)
- Where did you live during the different stages of your life? Why were you there? How did it affect you?
- What is your dream room or getaway? If you could escape, where would you go and when?
- Who were your adolescent heroes? Why did they inspire you, and has that carried on through your life?
- Were there people such as teachers, counsellors or mentors, that shaped your teenage, or young adult life in a positive manner? Who were they? What were they like? What drew you to them?
- Many times we remember things one way, but our friends and relatives remember them differently. Do you have any experiences like this? Tell us your view of one event.
- Refer to a reliable reference on your country's history and write about 500 words on the events, cultural aspects or political events of that country when you were a teenager. How aware of these were you and how did they impact you?
- What was your favourite childhood story? What was it's theme? Are you still attracted to that same theme as an adult?
- What were your parents strongest good and bad traits? Do you remember any stories that illustrate these traits? How did they influence you?
- What friends were particularly important to you? What did you have in common or want to have in common? What stories can you tell about how they influenced you?
- Describe an event that you consider to be your coming of age. Is it a happy event or a bittersweet one?
- Describe the icons of your youth – symbols, clothing, music, heroes. What did they mean to you? Which were your personal icons, and which were the icons of your era?
- What was the cutest or funniest thing you did or said as a child, that you still laugh about? Tell us the story behind it.





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